

Week of Friday, August 27 - Thursday, September 2, 2010

Status Report

More than 400 Service personnel are actively engaged in the response, working to protect wildlife and their habitats. They are also assessing the damage from the BP oil spill in preparation for the work that will be needed to restore the Gulf of Mexico. State and federal wildlife teams have captured alive more than 2,000 visibly oiled birds, more than half of which have been rehabilitated and released. More than 4,000 visibly oiled birds have been collected dead.

14,440 sea turtle hatchlings have been released on Florida's East Coast after the eggs were translocated from the northern Gulf, away from the oil. Those translocations have been suspended due to improved conditions in Gulf waters.

The 1,000th rehabilitated oiled bird was released at the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area and Rabbit Island in Louisiana. About 100 birds remain at the Hammond Rehabilitation Center in Hammond, LA.

Hard boom has been removed from all of Florida and Alabama, and only a couple of miles of hard boom remained along the coast of Mississippi. In Louisiana, more than a mile of hard boom was removed from both North Breton Island, a bird nesting island at Breton National Wildlife Refuge and the Delta National Wildlife Refuge. All the boom was removed from Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi and Alabama. Aerial operations flew special reconnaissance missions off the coast of Louisiana to observe bird nesting islands. Some nesting activity was observed, but nesting on most islands was complete. Also in Louisiana, staff from Delta and Breton assisted in the recovery of pieces of the Transocean Horizon Rig from the Chandeleurs, a chain of barrier islands.

In Alabama, hand crews continue to pick up billions of small tar balls from Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. Staff at Bon Secour are also testing beach cleaning equipment and monitoring sea turtle nests. 93 hatchlings emerged from one nest.

Bad weather hampered some wildlife and clean-up operations this week.

Spill by the Numbers

Overall personnel responding: 26,500

Total vessels responding: 3,450

Shoreline impacted as of Sept. 1: approximately 126 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline is currently heavily or moderately oiled. About 494 miles are lightly oiled.